

Grace is known not only for her community service, but also for her competitive spirit in my annual charity bocce tournament. For the past eleven years, Grace has displayed a superior level of skill and sportsmanship on the bocce court. No tournament would be complete without Grace's ever-present smile and humor.

Even at 90 years of age, Grace maintains her high energy level and the organizing skills that made her such a leader. I would not be surprised if the phrase "growing old gracefully" was created to describe Grace Vigneau. She is loved by family and friends for her infectious enthusiasm, good will, and caring ways. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to rise with me today and celebrate the 90th birthday of Grace Vigneau and wish her continued health and happiness for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call Nos. 283, 284 I would have voted "aye."

WATER RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the following editorial was written by my fellow colleague from California, Representative GEORGE MILLER. It was published in The Los Angeles Times on June 20, 2002 under the title, "Dammning the Money Stream of the Water Profiteers."

I commend Representative MILLER for eloquently addressing the issue of water rights in California. I support the conviction that California's water belongs to all Californians. We should not allow big agribusiness to profit off antiquated government subsidies at the expense of California's water-strapped communities and family farms.

The following is a reprinted version of Mr. MILLER's editorial:

[From the Los Angeles Times, June 20, 2002]
DAMMING THE MONEY STREAM OF THE WATER PROFITEERS

(By George Miller)

Californians who recently learned a very expensive lesson about futures trading from Enron Corp. may soon get a second dose of market manipulation, this time courtesy of the federal government.

Instead of watching out for the water needs—and pocketbooks—of taxpayers, the Department of the Interior may soon sign long-term water contracts that provide multimillion-dollar windfalls to agricultural corporations at the expense of cities and consumers.

A hundred years ago, Congress made a bargain with farmers in the dry West: Taxpayers would subsidize dams, canals and water to promote settlement and irrigate family farms. In return, farmers would have to repay only a fraction of the true cost of the investment. The subsidies were locked into long-term contracts that the Interior Department signed with water districts promising to deliver millions of acre-feet.

Yet for decades, some reclamation beneficiaries in California's Central Valley have been farming the taxpayers as much as the land.

Huge companies maneuvered to capture the multibillion-dollar subsidy intended for family farmers, leading Congress to close the loopholes and reduce the subsidies that encourage overuse of water resources.

Now the original water contracts are expiring, and Interior must negotiate new contracts under much tighter terms dictated by a historic 1992 water reform law. Given the growing demand for water throughout the state, some of these giant farm operations have a new scheme for enriching themselves at public expense: Instead of using subsidized water for growing crops, they want to sell some of their government-provided water back to the government—or to water-short cities or farms—for huge profits.

Bennett Raley, who is in charge of the federal water program at the Interior Department, approves. "We believe in the free market," Raley says. "It's their water." Well, actually, it isn't "their" water.

The water originates in the mountains and the rivers of this great state. It belongs not to any particular contractor or farmer but to all the people of California, who paid for its development, storage and delivery with costly subsidies. The Interior Department's customers enjoy the use of the water only because of their contracts with the government, and those contracts now need to be renegotiated.

The government signed contracts to provide subsidized water for food and fiber production, not to award a public resource to a particular group that could convert it into an annuity for personal profit. If there is a market in California for \$1,000 an acre-foot—and there is—why would any responsible federal official sign a 25-year contract to sell water to farming concerns that will resell it for a profit of 800% or 1,000%?

If the water market is that healthy, why shouldn't the taxpayers, who built and subsidized the projects in the first place, get to sell the water for a large profit?

If the contractor's intent in signing a new contract is merely to market a portion of the water, then, learning from the Enron example, we should not be concentrating public resources in the hands of a few private individuals.

Yet farming interests, many with longstanding ties to the Bush administration, are pressuring federal officials to sign new contracts that deliver them control of vast amounts of water.

Water is already an overcommitted resource in California, with competing interests divided among cities, agriculture, industry and the environment. Global warming has raised concerns of diminished Sierra snowpacks and runoffs in the future, which would reduce our ability to fill our reservoirs.

Surely this is not the time for responsible government officials to commit water to one group of contractors and force the rest of the state to cut deals that enrich private interests from the sale of public resources.

Doesn't it make sense for Raley and his co-workers at the Interior Department to use great caution in deciding how much of the public's subsidized water to include in those new contracts, instead of promising vast volumes that irrigators will turn around and resell—perhaps even to the government—at a huge profit?

It's not their water, Mr. Raley, unless you give it away.

WILLIAMS SISTERS AT WIMBLEDON

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Serena Williams on her impressive win at Wimbledon. Over the holiday weekend, Serena beat her older sister, Venus, to win her third grand slam title but her first Wimbledon title. I congratulate the two sisters on a great match.

Serena said she gained a lot of momentum from her French Open win, and it showed. In the end, Serena won in straight sets. With the win, Serena became the first woman to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back since Steffi Graf in 1996.

The next day, the two sisters teamed up to win the Wimbledon Doubles Title over French Open champions, Paola Suarez and Virginia Ruano Pascual. While the weather did not look great, the skill these young ladies displayed certainly was. It was an entertaining match, but in the end the Williams sisters proved too strong for their opponents. They won 6-2, 7-5. With that win, the sisters' 2002 Wimbledon record was 19 wins and 1 loss. The one loss came when Venus lost to Serena in the Singles Finals.

Serena now is ranked number one in the world. Venus, who previously was ranked first, is now second. They are quickly becoming the most dominant figures in tennis. They are extremely skilled, they can hit both forehands and backhands with pinpoint accuracy. And their serves are clocked at well over 100 mph.

Venus and Serena enter each match well-prepared and confident, but the sisters always handle themselves with grace. What is perhaps most telling about them, though, is their love for each other. Even after battling it out on the tennis courts for nearly two hours, Venus said, "Serena is my sister and I'm really happy she won, especially her first time. I would have loved to have won. At the same time, I'm so happy for her."

These young ladies are true competitors, but also great individuals. Again, I would like to congratulate Serena on her win this past Saturday. I wish both of them, Serena and Venus, the best of luck in upcoming tournaments.

SAN MATEO SCHOOL STUDENTS DISCUSS WHAT THE AMERICAN FLAG STANDS FOR

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues six of my constituents who have been selected winners in a very important essay contest. The six were authors of first, second, and third place winners in an Americanism essay competition for school children in grades 5 and 6 and in grades 7 and 8.

This contest was designed to promote and encourage patriotism. The theme for this year's competition was "What the Flag of the

United States Stands For." The competition was sponsored by lodge No. 1112 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks in San Mateo, California. I want to commend the Elks for their public-spirited effort in sponsoring this competition in order to foster a spirit of patriotism among the young people of our country.

The two first place winners were Julian Zhukivsky from Park Elementary School and Salone Kapur from Borel Middle School. The second place winners were Michael Kruger of Abbott Middle School and Martin Rofael of Bayside Middle School. The third place winners were Robert Gill of St. Timothy School and Brian Dunn of St. Gregory School.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these outstanding students for their excellent essays and for their thoughtful expressions of patriotism. After the events of September 11th, the flag has become a heightened symbol of our national unity and pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that these six excellent essays be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read them.

FIRST PLACE WINNER (GRADES 7 & 8): SALONE KAPUR WHAT THE AMERICAN FLAG STANDS FOR

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed an act to establish an official flag for America. Today, the American Flag is eminent in all public places. The flag means a significant amount in people's lives.

The American flag is a symbol of our nation's unity, and is a source of pride and inspiration for all its citizens. We all come from different backgrounds, but here, we all unite and belong in one big family.

SECOND PLACE WINNER (GRADES 7 & 8): MARTIN ROFAEL OUR FLAG

What does the flag of the United States stand for? We always stand and salute, but some of us don't know what it represents. Our flag has a tremendous story. On July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress declared the 13 colonies free from the British to be the United States of America.

The fifty stars on our flag represent the fifty states. The white color on the flag represents purity and innocence. The blue background color on the flag represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The 13 stripes on our flag represent the first 13 colonies. There are seven red stripes and six white stripes. The red color represents hardness and valor.

Some flags have fringe, which resembles honorable enrichment. Also some flags have a gold trim which has no meaning.

That is what the flag of the United States of America means. It has awesome and tremendous meaning.

THIRD PLACE WINNER (GRADES 7 & 8): BRIAN DUNN THE MEANING OF THE FLAG

The flag represents many different things. The stripes represent the 13 original colonies and the stars represent the fifty states. It also represents our freedom, our religion, and the freedom to express however we feel. To the people in the United States the flag represents peace, love, courage, bravery and freedom. The flag is an inspiration to all of those who see it to be all that they can be. It also represents opportunity, the opportunity to succeed and become successful at whatever you want to be. But, most of all, the American flag represents the greatest country ever to inhabit this earth.

FIRST PLACE WINNER (GRADES 5 & 6): JULIAN ZHUKOVSKY THE AMERICAN FLAG

I think the flag of the United States stands for liberty and justice for all. We are all

equal and have the same rights. We are made of many cultures and religions. We are united and we are one nation under God.

I think the white stripes on the flag stand for the purity of ideals. The red stripes on the flag stand for the blood of the people who fought in the war for independence in 1776. The stripes together stand for the original thirteen colonies that gave birth to the fifty states with their name of glory.

The fifty stars on the flag stand for the fifty states of our country. They are like bright stars glistening high above in the sky. Our country's flag will shine forever with those stars. Today, after the terrorist attack on September 11th, thousands of Americans have put up their American flags. They did it to show the world that we still stand for liberty and justice for all.

SECOND PLACE WINNER (GRADES 5 & 6): MICHAEL KRUGER WHAT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES STANDS FOR

The United States flag stands for freedom, justice, equality, hope and faith. The freedom to live wherever you want to live and be free. Freedom also allows us the freedom of speech to say whatever we want. Justice is to be held accountable for the laws of our country and to be treated fairly. Equality is for all people to be treated equal. The faith in people to keep our country free. The flag also gives me hope and faith for my family, country and myself. When I see the United States Flag I feel very proud and lucky to be living in America. Everything on the American flag means something. There are thirteen stripes, seven are red and six are white. There is a blue box in the upper corner with fifty stars in it. The stripes represent the thirteen colonies and the stars represent the fifty states.

THIRD PLACE WINNER (GRADES 5 & 6): ROBERT GILL WHAT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES STANDS FOR

To me and for a lot of other Americans the flag is a symbol of peace. There have been some difficult times but our flag will always stand for peace. I think it stands for the peace because it also stands for a peaceful country. That flag stands for the people who love it. Everybody should know it as a sign of peace and justice.

The flag also stands for being united and having liberty. When people say "united we stand" they don't mean just Americans, they mean everybody. Everybody does or should know that. The flag is more than just something that waves in the air, it's something we should cherish. The American Flag stands for you and me, and everyone else in this country and everyone who loves it too.

As you can see the flag stands for peace, justice, liberty, and our rights. That's why I'm proud of it!

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2002 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 16

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's plans to request additional funds for wildland firefighting and forest restoration as well as ongoing implementation of the National Fire Plan.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine livestock packer ownership issues.

SD-562

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the proposed Department of Homeland Security issues.

SD-430

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Semi-Annual Report on Monetary Policy of the Federal Reserve.

SH-216

Environment and Public Works

Judiciary

To hold joint hearings to examine new source review policy, regulations, and enforcement activities, with respect to clean air.

SD-106

Finance

To hold hearings to examine homeland security and international trade issues.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation computer hardware problems from 1992 to 2002.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the state of property restitution in Central and Eastern Europe for American claimants.

334, Cannon Building

JULY 17

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the protection of Native American sacred places.

SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2394, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling containing information applicable to pediatric patients; S. 2499, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish labeling requirements regarding allergenic substances in food; S. 1998, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 with respect to the qualifications of foreign schools; proposed legislation authorizing funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant; and the nomination of Richard H. Carmona, of Arizona, to be Medical